Government of Madras

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1495, 3rd October 1923

Floods (South Kanara)—Relief of distress—Supply of bamboos, etc., and other measures of relief.

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Order—No. 1495, Revenue, dated 3rd October 1923.

Miscellaneous.

The Government sanction an advance of Rs. 85,000 to enable the Conservator of Forests, Sixth Circle to meet the initial cost of felling bamboos, etc., from forests and transporting them to convenient centres for sale at cost price to the people whose houses have been destroyed by the recent floods in the South Kanara district. This advance should be recouped as the bamboos, etc., are sold.

2. The expenditure will be charged to 'Advances repayable — Special Advances — Advances for the felling and transport of bamboos, etc., in the South Kanara district.' The District Forest Officers, North Mangalore and South Mangalore will be held responsible for the recovery of the advance.

3. The Accountant-General is requested to place the amount immediately at the disposal of the Conservator.

4. The Government also sanction a discretionary grant of Rs. 10,000 to the Collector of South Kanara for the relief of distress caused by the floods. The Collector should be instructed to utilize this amount in supplying bamboos, etc., free to poor or destitute persons who cannot afford to buy them even at cost price, and have failed to obtain relief from the money raised by public subscription and in such other cases of urgent need as he finds to be necessary.

5. The grant of Rs. 10,000 sanctioned in paragraph 4 above will be met from the sum of Rs. 22,400 resumed in G.O. R. No. 215, Finance, dated 14th July 1923.

6. The Government are pleased to direct, as a special case, that the loans to be advanced in the district under the Loans Acts for rebuilding the houses destroyed by floods shall bear interest at 4 per cent. The maximum amount up to which loans will be granted at this favourable rate of interest will be rupees one lakh in the first instance and, if a larger amount is found necessary, the Collector should address Government later on. The Collector should select the cases most deserving of the benefit of this concession.

The Board of Revenue is requested to place the amount immediately at the disposal of the Collector from the allotment for Agricultural loans.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

E. W. Legh,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue and Settlement).
" Chief Conservator of Forests.
" Conservator of Forests, Sixth Circle.
" Collector of South Kanara.
" Development Department.
" Accountant-General (through Finance).
" Finance Department.

Editors' Table.

Copy f letter from the Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, No. Refce.7342-23-1 dated the 15th September 1923.

Flood relief -- South Kanara.

In D.O.No.2035/23-1 dated 1st instant from the Under Secretary, Development Department, I was asked to take immediate action in the matter of grant of forest produce in South Kanara. Before the receipt of this D.O. I had received Mr. Turing's note of 21st August 23 and had directed the Conservator VI Circle to proceed immediately to Mangalore. I now submit a copy of ~~the~~ report from that officer dealing with the arrangements which he has made. I think there can be no doubt that the people who require the bamboos cannot possibly fell and transport them themselves. There appear to be two alternatives; either the work must be done by the Forest Department or by the Relief Committee. The Conservator reports that the Vice President of the Relief Committee while of opinion that Government should undertake the work states the Committee would do it were a grant made for the purpose. The Forest Department can undertake it but it will mean upsetting most of the work in progress in South Kanara with a resultant loss in revenue and I would urge that if possible, the work should be entrusted to the Committee, the Forest Department giving whatever assistance it can.

2. The Committee appear to think that whoever does the work the whole cost must fall on Government. This is hardly reasonable. Government might certainly forego the value of the bamboos standing in the Forest but it is not reasonable to expect it to meet the cost of felling, transport etc. In this connection I invite a reference to para 13 of the Conservator's report in which it is stated that the result of stripping the forests of the available bamboos will be to increase the cost of extracting timber by Rs.10,500 per annum for the next three years thus considerably reducing the profit on timber exploitation; in any case therefore Government must be put to sc[illegible] ot tend to

expense as a result of the relief operations.

3. In para 16 of his report the Conservator states that a special grant which is likely to be in the neighbourhood of Rs.85,000 will be required. He adds that the work of extracting bamboos done by the Forest Department will involve the postponing of a certain amount of ordinary forest work the result of which is likely to be a saving of Rs.8,000/ on the budget grant but as he points out this will probably all be required for reconstructing forest buildings which have been destroyed or damaged by floods.

4. In para 17 the Conservator suggests that the Collector be delegated with unlimited powers in the present case. I request that this suggestion may be adopted as it will save innumerable references to Government.

5. As requested by the Conservator I have already deputed Mr. Currie on special duty in connection with relief operations.

Copy of letter from the Conservator of Forests, VI Circle to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras, No. dated the 7th September 1923.

In Chief Conservator's telegram of the 6th September I have been definitely instructed to arrange for the supply departmentally of the bamboos required in connection with the reconstruction of houses destroyed by the recent floods in the South Kanara district. In a subsequent telegram of this date, I am told that the Government are likely to require the Department to make the necessary supplies unless the Relief Committee can undertake the arrangement. I have discussed matters with the Collector in his camp at Gurpur, with the two District Forest officers and with Rao Bahadur N. Subba Rao, the President of the District Board and the Vice President of the Relief Committee (including apparently 32 members with separate taluk sub-committees).

the members of which are distributed all over the affected taluks, though principally between Mangalore and Udipi, is of opinion, that Government should undertake the supply, but states the Committee would undertake it, were they made a grant for the purpose. This means, that whatever happens, the cost for supplying bamboos at convenient centres for distribution would fall upon Government in the first instance, and it is expected that Government would not recover the cost of felling and delivery at those centres from the grantees of the produce, except perhaps in the case of certain of those thought to be in a position to pay.

2. The Collector accepts the position that Governmen must undertake the supply departmentally, but is of opinion that we must recover the cost of felling, transport and incidentals, the free grant being confined to the value of the produce. Even if the work or the expenditure thereon can be entrusted to the Relief Committee we should have to insist upon the recovery of any grant made in this connection by the sale of the produce at the cost of production.

3. The position as regards bamboos in South Kanara is that whereas normally there would be plenty available, the periodical flowering and dying has resulted in there being a short age at the present time. What there are, in conveniently situated localities are required by the department for floating timber and in every case the forsts are far distant from the affected areas.

4. The difficulties connected with the departmental felling and transport are principally:—

(1) the absence of any organisation for such purpose

(2) the necessity of suspending normal work in order to find staff and supervision - involving loss of revenue

(3) the difficulty in obtaining sufficient labour and carts

(4) the increased expense to the grantees - privately organised labour and transport could not ~~xx~~ fail to be cheaper - the sudden demand for an abnormal number of carts will no doubt tend to

to raise the rates.

(5) the uncertainty of the accomplishment of the task within a reasonable time.

5. Mr. Subba Rao is convinced that the individuals affected could not possibly arrange for the felling and transport of what they require and it appears to be the general opinion that they would be unable to combine either as a whole or in small groups or to act as individuals, while the distance of the forests and the centres of consumption is undoubtedly an adverse factor. But in view of Mr. Subba Rao's opinion that the Committee could undertake the supply were a grant given, it is not easy to understand how combination is considered impossible, or help through the large number of members of the general and other committees impracticable. The fact is possibly that the ultimate recovery from the grantees of the out of pocket expenses is considered uncertain.

6. The Collector estimates that the following number of bamboos are required.

(1) Coondapur taluk	25,000
(2) Udipi taluk	79,000
(3) Karkal taluk	7,000
(4) Mangalore taluk including Mangalore town but excluding Bantwal).	140,000
(5) The southern areas	50,000
	301,000

This estimate is arrived at by an allowance of 50 bamboos for each house which has actually collapsed. For houses which have been damaged but not to the extent of complete dissolution it is believed that 25 bamboos per house will be required but allowance is not made by the Collector for these as it is feared that the bamboos available will not go round and it is desired to help the worst cases first. If a greater number proves available the 'damaged' houses will obtain a share.

7. The estimates of the bamboos available are:—

(1) North Mangalore.

Someshwar reserve forest	100,000	
Andar reserve forest	6,500	
Chinkramale reserve forest	12,000	— 11,8,500

(2) South Mangalore

Nerinkemale and Suvarmale Reserve forest	5,000	
Porkala reserve forest	3,000	
Mujur " "	15,000	
Kadanbili " "	2,000	
Shibaji " "	5,000	
Kuntur " "	5,000	
Anegundi block of reserves	10,000	
Jalsur group(Devachalla etc. reserves)	15,000	
Sampaji R.F.(Paishwani areas)	75,000	- 13,500
	253,500	

thus giving us almost the number we require though it is necessary to state that so far as the South division is concerned, the cost of extraction will be very heavy, the areas are not very accessible and the leads to the centres of necessity will be long. Also, the Sampaji areas, though providing the largest possibility, do not serve with any facility the larger centres of necessity.

8. But the numbers available may be added to in the following way. Ordinarily on the West Coast it is only the tops of the bamboos that are made use of. the reasons being that with bamboos plentiful and their being no need to be economical in their use, it is the practice to take only the top halves of each culm which are more easily felled and transportable than the lower portions. These bottom pieces are useful however either as posts or split, as roofing material and it appears probable that it will be necessary to extract them to meet the demand. If so the number of bamboos available would be increased to 2,33,000 in the Northern Division and 2,50,000 in the Southern making a total of ~~4,83,000~~ 4,83,000. The cost of felling and extraction of bottoms however is likely to be 50 % more than that of tops.

9. It is difficult to estimate the cost of extraction (felling and carting) which will naturally vary according to the numbers to be supplied at each centre and the source of supply. In collaboration with the District Forest Officers rought estimates have been prepared, these vary from Rs.12 per 100 (for tops) in the case of bamboos from Nerankimale Reserved Forest extracted and sent to Uppinangady to Rs.24 (for tops) from Someshwar to Coondapur, to Rs.35 (for tops) from Sampaji Reserved Forest to Pannemangalore. Even with these rought figures, for each source of supply and distributing centre, it is impossible to forecast the total cost of the work until it is known what number of bamboos will have to be delivered at each centre. The Collector has shown me tables prepared, showing the village war number of houses to be assisted and these must be allotted by the District Forest Officers to the distribution centres so as to ascertain the number of bamboos required for each centre. It will then be possible after a fortnight's actual experience of the work of felling and carting from the various supplying areas, to arrive at a rate for each depot, which is easier and would appear to be more satisfactory, than to attempt to fix a flat rate for the District. All that can be hazarded at present is that the actual cost of supply is not likely to be less than Rs.28 per 100 or some Rs.85,000 in all without allowing for depot establishment or any form of 'overhead' Much will depend upon the most economical way of distributing the felling areas among the depots. The District Forest Officers are instructed to submit detailed estimates as soon as possible.

10. It is considered that the following should be distributing centres i.e. depots from which the entitled in the neighbourhood will obtain their requirements- Coondappor, Udipi - Mangalore, Pannemangalore, Uppinangady and Bevinje. Mr. Subba Rao would have added Hangarkatta, but, as the Collector points out, this is very close to Udipi and Mr. Wells adds Mangalore to the list first prepared.

11. The depot procedure would be for the subordinate in charge to sell to anyone producing the Tahsildar's authority (which would be retained) 50 bamboos per house at the rate fixed (the reported actual cost of felling and transport) for the particular depot. This reservation of the bamboos for those considered to be entitled to special consideration would continue up to the 31st December 1923, after which it may be presumed that their demands have been satisfied and, thereafter, all comers could be supplied. The Collector would prefer not to charge these, too, more than cost price and I agree

The bamboos would be done up in the depot in lots of 50 (half 'tops' and half 'bottoms' if it is found necessary to use the latter) and no division of lots for selection should be permitted. The Range Officer should inspect the depots not less than once in ten days, to check the stock and accounts to satisfy himself that the correct rates are being charged, and to take over the collections in the case of depots which are not within easy reach of treasuries.

It would be preferable could the depots be placed in charge of Foresters, but it is to be feared that this will not be possible. Proposals for the entertainment of depot keepers (they will have to provide security) and depot watchers will be submitted by the District Forest Officers as soon as possible. It is hoped that it may be possible to commence sales from the 1st November. By the 31st March 1924 all requirements should have been supplied, or proved impossible of supply and the depots should then be shut down.

12. It has been pointed out to the Collector that the difficulties of procuring carts will be considerably reduced if the help of the Revenue authorities is given and it is believed that he will arrange for this through the firka Revenue Inspectors.

13. In making their detailed felling plans (but not their estimates) the District Forest Officers will for the time being, omit from consideration the bamboo areas required by them, for departmental timber floating operations, for the next three years. After that time the bamboos, dead and dying are not likely to be

serviceable. But it will be distinctly understood that if these bamboos prove to be required for the purpose under consideration they must be given, provided that no others are available. If they have to be relinquished it is estimated that the lack of bamboos will result in an additional expenditure of some Rs.10,000 (for both Divisions) per annum for the next three years, thus considerably reducing the profit on timber exploitation. This is a very considerable addition to the free grants proposed and, although it provides no reason negativing them it should be noted.

14. It should be possible, at any rate as regards some of the Mangalore taluk areas to eke out the bamboos available by grants of palmyras standing on unreserved lands. In any event the cost of supply of bamboos to these particular areas is likely to be high and the palmyras (which could be removed by the grantee) would cost him less in spite of the increased cost of working it up.

15. Also, if desired there is no reason why 100 acres of the Sabladi Reserved Forest (North Mangalore) should not be devoted to the supply of poles in place of bamboos. Of this reserve (200 acres) 100 acres has been worked for fuel since 1917-18 the balance is not being worked and is said to contain some 3000 poles up to 6" diameter. These could be cut and placed on roadside (within 2½ miles of Coondapoor) at about Rs.12 per 100. Were this done the area could be properly regenerated next yea:

Similarly, there are, in case of need, areas in South Mangalore namely Kalanjemale and Narimogar Reserved Forests where the Standards in the old coupes (clear felling is now adopted) could be sacrificed, providing some 1,500 poles at about Rs.15 per 100; while the Kaniyarmale Reserved Forest is said to be able to provide, from thinnings, some 7,500 Xylia and other poles, which could be delivered at Mangalore at about Rs.45 per 100. Again there are unreserves which will provide some small timb and the Collector has under consideration proposal temporary suspension of

the Collector agrees that it will suffice if we sell in our depots at fixed (not preferential) rates up to the 31st December 1923. The ordinary practice is to sell in auction periodically; but if this method of disposal is held in suspense for the time being there will be no chance of contractors raising prices against a necessitous commun

It is to be feared that if the supply of bamboos etc. is undertaken departmentally, some of the normal work of the two divisions must be abandoned. Specially engaged temporary staff, with no knowledge of the forests, would be a help to ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ neither the special nor the ordinary work. I shall, however, as I have telegraphed the Chief Conservator today, be glad of the services of Mr. Currie. Assistant Conservator of Forests, to organize the special work and to see that is pushed on with as rapidly as possible

Among the works which it will be necessary to abandon are the elephant capturing operations in South Mangalore, the Nalkur regeneration fellings and to reduce or abandon the area under preparation for stocking with Hopea next year; while seeing that the staff will be fully occupied during November and December it would appear that fire protection will, necessarily, be neglected to a considerable extent. There are thus likely to be savings to the extent of some Rs.8,000 - on the other hand there is the reconstruction of our own buildings, destroyed or damaged by the floods, to be undertaken as early as possible and it is unlikely that any appreciable part of the amount required for the bamboo operations will be available from savings in the Mangalore divisions, or from other divisions in the Circle. A special grant will be necessary, the amount of it cannot be stated with any degree of precision at this stage, though it is likely to be in the neighbourhood of Rs.85,000 - vide para 9 above.

17. The powers of a Collector, in regard to free grants are limited to Rs.1,000, in respect of communities, and it is certain that even with the cost of extraction eliminated, the amount

After ry will far exceed his powers or those of the Chief Conservator

e then, that the Collector be delegated with unlimite-

the agency of supply, the District Forest Officers have been instructed to proceed at once with the preliminary arrangements on the lines of this report. Mr. Currie, when he joins (he will be attached to the Northern division for purposes of pay etc.) will, in consultation with, and on the advice of, the District Forest Officers draw up a definite plan of campaign and will put it into effect. His headquarters will be nominally Mangalore: but as he will be in camp for practically the whole of the time, the lack of house accommodation will be no obstacle. He must work in close touch with the District Forest Officers, who will be responsible for the financing of the operations, Mr. Currie's principal concern being with organization and control.

19. Copies of this report have been supplied to the Collector and the District Forest Officers.

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Extract of Board's Reference No.H.2626/23-1, dated the 20th September 1923.

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4. Para 6 of the report - The Board considers that there is no case for special treatment for South Kanara in regard to the rate of interest, but there is a case for a general reduction of the rate of interest to something nearer the market rate. - Government will be addressed separately on this subject.

13

Copy of D.O. from the Hon'ble the Revenue Member to E.W.Legh Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to Govemment, Revenue Department, dated the 16th August 1923.

I am sending the enclosed letter from Dr. U. Rama Rao, M.L.C., in regard to the South Kanara floods. You need not mind his language as it is - more or less his "patent" either while writing or speaking in the Legislative Council. I am being heckled on all sides for apparent inactivity on the part of Government to take any action in the face of such wide and heart-rending calamity. Of course I realize that the Collector has told us nothing until now as regards need for Government interference. But I can hardly realize any difference between the obligations of Government on the occasion of famine and that of floods. In the former, the people affected are at least saved their movable and immovable properties, but in the latter everything they possess on earth is washed away by a relentless flood. I think the best course will be to refer this letter to the Collector and ask him to give us his considered opinion promptly. If it becomes necessary to spend some money to relieve distress which is undoubted, we must make up our minds without further loss of time. I am merely writing to Dr. U.Rama Rao to say that I have referred his letter to the Collector for immediate remarks and shall take such action as may be considered necessary.

Copy of D.O. from Dr. U.Rama Rao to the Hon. the Revenue Member, dated 15th August 1923.

I herewith enclose a copy of the communication which I sent to the local press for your information. On behalf of the suffering poor of South

14 2

Kanara, may I appeal to you personally to use all your influence and see that relief is given to the suffering people in S. Kanara.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Copy of D.O. from E.W. Legh Esq., I.C.S., to E.W. Wells Esq., I.C.S., Collector of S.Kanara, No.1630 B/23-1, dated 16th August 1923.

I am to enclose a copy of a letter from Dr. U.Rama Rao, M.L.C. to the Press and to request you to furnish to Government as promptly as possible through Macmichael your considered opinion as to whether any action by Government is neeessary towards relief of distress.

Scott. II-99—6,528—8-2-22.

1923.

Development DEPARTMENT.

UNDER SECY. TO GOVT. 23 AUG 1923 REVENUE

CUTTIN ERS.

1. *Name of Paper*— Justice
2. *Published at*— Madras
3. *Dated*— 16/8/23

Rao Wef 21.8.23

UNPRECEDENTED FLOODS IN SOUTH CANARA

Damage to the Extent of 1 Crore of Rupees

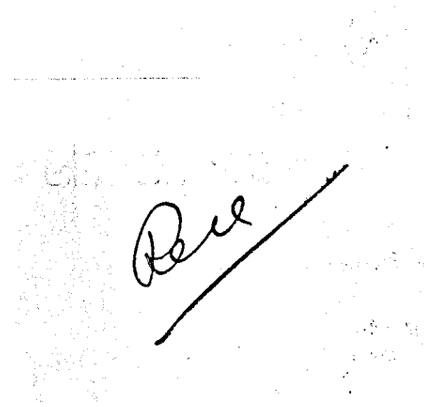
GOVERNMENT MUST START RELIEF CENTRES

Rao Sahib U. Rama Rau, M.L.C., writes :—

It is said "Misfortune never comes single" and the District of South Canara affords a striking example of this proverb. It was only quite recently that the heavy and unusual floods in Kalyanpur and Cangulli rivers had caused considerable damage to property in two or three taluqs-thankGod there was no loss of human lives on that occasion—and before something could be done by way of relief to the sufferers in the affected area, there comes the startling news that Nethravathi river was in serious floods on the 6th and the 7th instants and hesvy damages have been done to Buntwal and its surroundings attended with loss of several lives this time. Nature seems to be relentless and is determined to inflict untold miseries on the people of South Canara. The following discription of the horrors of the 2nd flood by an eye-witness will convince the public of the enormity of the damage done and the need for instant relief:—

"Most of the villages on both sides of the river are swept off. In some villages only 3 or 4 houses are left. Jappu, Adyar, Arkul, Buntwal, Panimayalur, Sharpadi, Uppinangadi, all have the ruins of houses. In Buntwal alone, about 1,000 houses are swept off. Houses even 3 miles from the river are damaged. In Buntwal alone about 30,000 muras of rice are lost in addition to the houses, cloth, shops, etc. Buntwal, Uppinagadi are the bigger towns affected and it is impossible to estimate the losses. It can't be less than a crore".

There is no doubt that several organisations have been started to afford relief to the unfortunate victims. But they cannot be expected to go so far as to satisfy the entire needs of the present situation. Public philantbrophy and munificence have not exhibited as yet any signs of oversubscribing the Relief fund and considering that not even a thousand rupees were collected at the meeting held in Madras for the purpose last occasion, it will be unwise to rely solely on public sympathy and public support to save almost the whole District population from starvation and misery. Feeding, clothing and housing the distressed people in the affected areas are the three necessary and indispensable items and a moment's delay in doing this means further suffering and further loss of lives. This is the time for the Government to step in and start several relief centres in the affected areas immediately. Let not the Government take shelter under the Famine Code, and wait for regular famine to set in and for hundreds and thousands of people seen actually dying from hunger and starvation, before they can take any action. The days of red-tapesim are gone and without waiting for the usual formalities of reports, references, consultations, considerations and declarations all of which will take several months—let the Government, if they are earnest and if they think they have a duty to perform to the suffering humanity, forthwith instruct by wire the Collector to start relief centres at once in the affected localities. I appeal to the Hon. the Revenue Member to give a practical proof of his sympathy and large heartedness by unlocking the Government Treasury at this



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Collector's office, S. Kanara,
Camp Buntwal, 12-8-1923.

Dear Mr. Legh,

Your D.O.No.1503 B/23-1 dated 6th August reached me to-day and I am replying at once. I have already heard from Mr. Suryanarayana Rao and hope to meet him at Mangalore on the 14th. I will of course give the Committees you mention and Mr. Suryanarayana Rao any information or help that I can in their enquiries regarding the extent of the distress and the best means of dealing with it.

Since you wrote we have suffered far more in the destruction of Buntwal, Panemangalore, Uppinangadi and Venur. Regarding the first floods I wrote that it was not necessary to trouble the Revenue Member to come here, but in regard to these second floods I think that a Member of the Board of Revenue might be requested to come to the District and see the extent of the damage and the problems that will confront us in rebuilding Buntwal and Uppinangadi. In their present sites both are most dangerously situated, and if there is to be a long term Government loan for the rebuilding of them — I can think of no other expedient at present — Government must have some say as to the sites of the new towns. The ruins of Buntwal, Uppinangadi, Panemangalore and probably of Venur, which I have not seen, are beginning to be very unhealthy what with carcasses and rotting rice in the debris, but at a fairly early date the visit of an experienced officer is in my opinion essential. Meanwhile the efforts of all of us are directed to immediate evacuation and relief.

I am

Sincerely yours,

G.W.Wells.

P.S. Dawson, D.S.P. writes me that the railway now ends at Manjeshwar about ten miles south of Mangalore.

17. 5

Copy of demi-official to the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Sir Md. Habibullah Sahib Bahadur, Kt., C.I.E., Member of Council, No.1639 B/23-1, dated the 17th August 1923: --

X/4 Spl

I enclose a copy of letter from Wells received this morning but datedthe 12th. I rang up the Board of Revenue and found that Turing should be arriving at Mangalore today. He will therefore, I hope, take such steps as are immediately - required. Wells' letter indicates that there will be need of Government assistance of some kind and probably he is right in thinking that Government loan for rebuilding will be the best method of relief. We could probably release four or five lakhs by directing the Board to withdraw such portion of the sums allotted for agricultural loans as has not already been - promised by Collectors. I have consulted Wadsworth about this and he agrees. This money could be obtained without depending on Finance; possibly they could help us also if necessary.

Both Davies and Wadsworth think it possible that Wells may not be quick in grasping the situation and for this reason I have wired to you suggesting that you may like to go across to Mangalore on leaving Trichinopoly as this would enable you personally to judge of the necessity of the situation and to answer any questions that may be asked hereafter. The Railway now ends at Manjeshwar about ten miles south of Mangalore but I presume there is some other arrangement for going on to - Mangalore: the Railway authorities at Trichinopoly would be able to tell you this.

Copy of demi-official from G.W. Wells Esq., I.C.S., Collector of South Kanara, dated the 17th August 1923:--

X/9 enclo

In the "Madras Mail" of 14th August 1923, there is a paragraph about Buntwal. The informant is stated to be Mr. Karnad Sadasiva Rao, (a Mangalore Non-Co-operator).

18 6

The paragraph puts the damage in Buntwal alone at more than Rs.50,00,000. It is added that the people are actually starving and that it is not possible to give relief on the spot but it is necessary to transfer the sufferers to the nearest places of safety, preferably Mangalore and Puttur and that steps are being taken in this direction.

Now the broad facts are these.

1. I was in Buntwal from the night of the 5th August to the morning of the 15th except for parts of the 11th and 12th when I went to Puttur and visited Uppinangady from there.

2. There was no actual starvation. The floods began on the ~~9kk~~ 6th - 7th and people were cut off in various part of the town. They had to go hungry till they could get to places of safety, but from the very first the Gowd Saraswat temple was feeding the public freely, having plenty of rice. The telegram in question must have been sent off about the 11th and there was no starvation then. I personally visited Jakkaribettu an outlying quarter which had been cut off tell then, boats not being available, on the 9th in a ~~gxeek~~ boat which was procured for me with great difficulty. I found the people collecting things from their houses and was told that they had no ~~xx~~ anxiety about food. From the very beginning I was equiring about the state of the food suppy and I was assured that people were getting food if they went to the temple for it. Cooking was going on in the outhouses around the travellers bangalow and under the eaves of the bangalow. There was a shortage of cooking vessels. Hence people had to go to the temple.

3. The evacuation referred to in the paragraph was not rapid. A good many people left as soon as they could but a large number would not go, until on the 12th on my return from Puttur I found the town in a distinctly unhealthy state, smelling of dead animals and rotting vegetable matter. I then tried to induce the people to leave for fear of an epidemic. On the 13th as the evacuation was proceeding very slowly as people would not go, though we got them boats, I - announced that I would eject from the town all except householders

that I would take the police through the town and clear the houses. This had a good effect and by the 15th about 90 per cent of the people had gone.

So the evacuation was not on account of starvation but under pressure from the District Magistrate to avert an epidemic.

4. Damage. This is no doubt extensive but it cannot exceed or even approach fifty lakhs. My Sharistadar, whose family is one of the leading families in the town and who has lost his house and considerable property, came to Buntwal about the 10th and stayed till the 14th. He is well acquainted with the affairs of the town and I gather from him that it is doubtful whether the damage is ten lakhs.

5. The paragraph gives the impression that every thing was done by Karnad Sadasiva Rao and his friends. If he actually came to Buntwal I was not told of it. The people who did most to keep things going and to steady the people were

1. the circle inspector of police Mr. Shantarama Rao

2. the Deputy Tahsildar Mr. Madhava Prabhu

3. a son-in-law of No.1 who came from Mangalore. I think his name is Vaikunta Baliga

4. and 5. Police Sub Inspectors Moran and Pereira.

6. My Sheristadar Mr. B. Manjunatha Baliga and from Mangalore on and after the 10th Mr. N. Subba Rao, the Municipal Secretary Mr. Leslie, and the District Health Officer, also Sergeant Bailey of the Reserve Police who arrived on the 12th. We got in first ten, and later ten more of the Reserve.

There were several other people influenced by the above persons who gave valuable help in various ways. The most useful perhaps was the prompt way in which the Mangalore Municipal Chairman sent in Mr. Leslie with a gang of scavengers who proceeded to remove ~~ex~~ carcasses and then want on to Panemangalore to do the same.

I apologise for a long letter, but it is due to the officials of Buntwal, to public men who helped from outside and to myself who was there that you should have and if necessary

this information. The statement about starvation touches me nearly. It was my most anxious preoccupation from the first, and had there been starvation I would have certainly found means to get food in.

93/IL

Madras Mail dt 14.8.1923

THE WEST COAST FLOODS

Much Destruction

IMMEDIATE RELIEF NECESSARY

(From our own Correspondent)

CALICUT, SATURDAY.

Reports continue to come in from all parts of the District of the destructive character of the floods. In Walluvanad, hundreds of houses have been washed away by flood action, while numbers of cattle have perished. According to one report, an elephant was seen carried down by the rushing torrent. Fields and gardens are completely submerged and, in many places, the roads too are under several feet of water, rendering all traffic impossible. At Edavanna, in Ernad, the floods have destroyed numbers of waterside dwellings, including a substantial building belonging to a rich Moplah. The disaster in this case was so sudden that nothing in the building could be saved and the loss to the owner is estimated at about Rs. 10,000. In both taluqs, postal communication with the interior has been either delayed or held up. Agricultural operations are of course out of the question, and it is feared that the cultivators, who had been anticipating good crops, stand to lose considerably.

RS. 50 LAKHS DAMAGE

Mr. Karnad Sadasiva Rau wires from Bantwal: The South Kanara floods in Bantwal alone are reported to have caused damage amounting to more than Rs. 50,00,000. Nearly one thousand houses have fallen and 2,000 to 3,000 refugees are seeking shelter in the town. The people are actually starving. It is not possible to give relief on the spot but it is necessary to transport the sufferers to the nearest places of safety, preferably Mangalore and Puttur, and steps are being taken in this direction. Funds are required in lakhs to render relief. A Central District Relief Committee has already been formed at Udipi with Mr. Haji Abdulla Sahib as President Messrs. Karnad Sadasiva Rau and Narayana Rau as Secretaries and Nayamapally Anand Rau, as Treasurer. The committee has already organised 15 depots to dole out rice to the sufferers. Clothes are also being distributed.

W 40

Copy of telegram from the Second Member, Board of Revenue, Land Revenue and Settlement dated 20th August 1923.

Your note 17th. Kanara floods. Please inform Revenue Secretary urgently. I expect send in within three four days detailed description position. I consider press reports overcoloured. Collector with my concurrence advising immediate grant Rs. Five thousand to assist feeding poorest class sufferers. No other step very urgent. Suggest awaiting my report. Regarding loans Collector estimates at least one lakh necessary. Accurate estimate impossible as yet.

Copy of Demi-official from Mr. S. Wadsworth I.S.S., to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, No.210 dated 27th August 1923.

1 W 11-20 ans

I enclose for the information of Government copy of a note and a wire from Turing regarding the South Kanara floods. You will see that the wire cancels para 7 of the note regarding the necessity of gratuitous relief from Government funds. To save time I am ~~sending~~ sending a copy of the note to Tireman.

Note I.

Note on the South Kanara floods.

The reports of the Collector with regard to the rivers which have caused the damage and the principal areas and villages affected are already in the hands of Government. It is unnecessary to recapitulate any of this information beyond saying that there have been two principal floods, the first occurring on the 8th and 9th of July, affecting principally a large area in the Coondapur division of which Udipi may be regarded as the centre, the second occurring on the 9th August when the principal area of damage was on either side of the Netravati river. This flood has wiped out 2/3rds of the town of Buntwal - an important mercantile centre-having a population of 4500, and destroyed most of Panemangalore, a place of 2,500 inhabitants on the other side of the river - opposite Bantwal. The town of Uppinangady some 15 miles - higher up having a population of over 2,000 has been even more completely destroyed. These places are mentioned as being the centres of the most concentrated damage. But there has been destruction to houses and property on either side of all the rivers as mentioned in the Collector's reports.

2. I have visited Bantwal, and Panemangalore and I am visiting the Udipi area in the course of the next 2 days.

3. I desire to make it clear at the outset that the floods were confined to a limited area within the river basins that the floods have now receded, and that the recurrence of floods on the same scale in this year is exceedingly unlikely. There is no area now under serious submersion. It is unnecessary to labour this point to any one who knows the physical conformation of the South Kanara District. The conditions are in fact entirely different to those which obtain in areas where floods are most common, for example at the tail end of the delta tracts where very large areas often remain under

large tracts of country are still flooded.

4. The general position may be summarised as follows:-

(1) Human life:- The loss of human life has been very slight; probably less than 20 lives were lost in all.

(2) Cattle:- It is believed that this is not very great; the largest loss being in Bantwal where some 70 dead cattle were found among the ruins. The cattle of South Kanara are of an inferior type and not very expensive to replace.

(3) Loss of grain:- This was very considerable at Bantwal, a great storage centre for rice and where a large merchant community resides. Here several lakhs worth of rice were destroyed. The same thing happened on a smaller scale at Uppinangady. The destruction of individual stores of rice has been considerable in all affected parts of the district.

(4) Loss of crops:- It is impossible to estimate this at present, but the general opinion is that it has not, broadly speaking been very serious, probably a few thousand acres in all. Paddy until the ear is formed has great capacities for withstanding submersion. Patches of the lowest-lying land have suffered from submersion so continuous that the crops are destroyed or seriously damaged and similar fields in some cases have been covered with sand and silt. But these cases form a very small fraction of the total. No inspecting officer seems to have yet found a tract in which destruction is the rule rather than the exception.

(5) Grain prices:- There has been a considerable and probably unjustifiable rise, in the prices of rice in Mangalore. The prices have advanced, I understand, by 15 to 20%. I do not think that the loss in grain stocks has been sufficient to justify such a rise in prices or anything approaching it. Probably the interruption of Railway communication and the fact that the disaster has hit the popular imagination has enabled the grain dealers to raise the prices unduly. With the reopening of Railway communication with Calicut, prices should decline. In any case they cannot apparently be maintained at this present longer than the reaping of the next

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(By order of the Governor in Council)

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5. The grant of Rs. 10,000 sanctioned in paragraph 4 above will be met from the sum of Rs. 22,400 resumed in G.O. R. No. 215, Finance, dated 14th July 1923.

6. The Government are pleased to direct, as a special case, that the loans to be advanced in the district under the Loans Acts for rebuilding the houses destroyed by floods shall bear interest at 4 per cent. The maximum amount up to which loans will be granted at this favourable rate of interest will be rupees one lakh in the first instance and, if a larger amount is found necessary, the Collector should address Government later on. The Collector should select the cases most deserving of the benefit of this concession.

The Board of Revenue is requested to place the amount immediately at the disposal of the Collector from the allotment for Agricultural loans.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

E. W. Legh,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue and Settlement).
,, Chief Conservator of Forests.
,, Conservator of Forests, Sixth Circle.
,, Collector of South Kanara.
,, Development Department.
,, Accountant-General (through Finance).
,, Finance Department.
Editors' Table.

(6) Destruction of houses and loss of private property.-

This is far the most important part of the disaster. As the Government are aware, the cultivators of SouthKanara for the most part live in scattered houses and huts, each on the holding of its owner; an enumeration of the destroyed and damaged houses in such conditions is a lengthy process and the figures are still very incomplete. The Collector roughly estimates the number of houses totally destroyed at about 5000. A considerable proportion of these house owners have also lost al l their property. This is particularly the case with the second or August flood in the Netravati area which took place at night. The July flood took place in the day time and more property was doubtless salved. In the opinion of the inspecting officers the majority of the hoises totally destroyed will be of the poorest type consisting of mud walls and of bamboo and thatched roofs.

5. emedial measures. As usual in the case of these disasters the remedial measures fall under two heads:-

(a) Immediate measures for the relief of the distress

(b) measures for reconstruction

(a) is practically a question of feeding for a few weeks those who have been left without resources. The period for which this is necessary. I am assured by both officials and non-officials will not extend in most cases beyond the end of September next, after which the harvest will begin of the first of this year's crops. As to the numbers involved, it is most difficult to hazard even a guess and a considerable difference of opibion exists between the official and non-official estimates. Naturally the people in urgent need of relief are only a fraction of those who have lost their houses. A considerable section of the labouring classes are employed on work in connection with cocoanut gardens, coir-making and the like, and their occupations have not been seriously disturbed by the recent floods. Another large section is boatmen, whose arnings the floods have improved. ~~Orthers~~ Others will find opportunities of employment in urgent repairs to the roads which the floods have rendered necessary.

The classes most in need of relief are probably the cooly not engaged in the above occupations and the very small tenant who normally lives on the stock of grain saved from the last harvest, which stock he has lost with the destruction of his house. The President, District Board, is emphatically of opinion that there is a large class which has needed relief in the form of doles since the occurrence of the July floods and will continue to need it for another six ~~months~~ weeks. The Collector is more doubtful and thinks that there are no signs of acute distress. The matter has already been taken up by various non-official agencies of which a brief account is given in the succeeding paragraphs.

6. Unfortunately the efforts of private charity in connection with these floods have not been organised under a single direction and are undesirably mingled with politics. The first in the field apparently were the non-cooperators, who organised a committee in Udipi, the centre of the area most affected by the first floods. This Committee has since claimed to act for the whole district. I am assured that its managing body consists for the most part of non-co-operators, and that is at the outset they tried to impose various absurd conditions, the distribution only of khaddar cloth and the like. Their funds are obtained partly by local subscription but largely from the Congress's Fund.

Shortly afterwards the Mangalore District Committee was formed with the Roman Catholic Bishop, as President and the Presiden District Board as one of its Vice Presidents.

It is with this Committee that the Government should deal. It made an effort to combine with the Udipi Committee; the negotiations I have failed to unravel but I gather that the suggested amalgamation will not take place, and think it better it should not. There are also several smaller committees at different centres.

The Mangalore Committee has collected, I understand from all sources about Rs.6000 - 7000, a disappointing sum from a comparatively rich district and headquarters; it hopes to to at least/double this before long.

It is also in treaty with the Servants of India Society and hopes to tap the sources of charity to which the latter has access.

The Mangalore Committee is already distributing doles to those who are reported to be in real distress; so is the Udipi Society. The risk of overlapping is obvious. The President District Board tells me they are trying to avoid this by dividing the areas. In his opinion unless they get funds from some other source local subscriptions will not suffice even for the necessary doles for the next six weeks. And the Committee, very sensibly in my opinion, would prefer to retain half its funds for the purposes which I have termed 'reconstruction

7. I have carefully considered the question of whether Government should give a grant to this Committee or not, and come to the conclusion that a small grant of Rs.5,000 may be given, and possibly supplemented a few weeks later by a further grant if the Collector advises. I do not think the total should exceed Rs.10,000.

No one can certify to the xdegree of the temporary distress. But the President, District Board is convinced it is considerable, and he impresses xxxx me as a sober-minded individual. He has also undoubtedly seen a great part of the area affected. So has the Collector. In fact both officials and non-officials have worked very hard at their inspections. I do not think it politic for Government to stand out altogether, and would sooner risk a small sum than give the handle to agitation which such abstention would afford. Obviously in that case the Collector should be on the Managing Committee and able to watch the expenditure. This, I believe, would be welcomed by the Committee and I would make it a condition of the grant.

Another.

Another independent agency for the distribution of the Government grant is obviously undesirable

8. Measures of re-construction and steps to be taken by Government.

(1) Loss of crops:- Nothing in my opinion need be done beyond the application of the ordinary remission rules. As a matter of fact the amount of remission necessary is likely to be very small. I have already referred to the comparatively limited area of total crop destruction. Apart from this the lands of the district are consolidated double crop wet and, with the exception of the land covered with sand, I doubt if there is any land which cannot grow the usual second crop.

(2) Loss of cattle is believed to be very limited and can be dealt with under the Agriculturist's Loans Act or by private charity.

(3) Loss of seed grain for second crop is likely to have been very considerable and is also a case for loans under the Agriculturists Loans Act or for private charity.

(4) Loss of houses:- This, as I have already explained, forms the most serious item. As in the case of those who require immediate relief, it will only be a fraction of the total number of sufferers who will require assistance in the matter of rebuilding their houses. There is a considerable number of sufficiently well-to-do who require no assistance. There is also a large class of tenant holder with no occupancy rights whom by custom the land-lord should help with materials in the construction or re-construction of his house. Neither of these classes are suitable recipients for loans or private charity

In my opinion an effort should be made to divide the remainder into

(a) those who have a pledgable interest in their land and

(b) those who have not.

Clause (b) are suitable recipients of private charity.

(I have already mentioned that the local Central Committee is

endeavouring to retain one half of their receipts for such purposes). Class (a)(b) are suitable recipients of loans from Government. But classes can be dealt with by the formation of Co-operative Credit Societies for building purposes under the Government scheme recently sanctioned. But how far those willcover the cause, I do not know, I should think a large number of direct loans would also be necessary. The local Assistant Registrar is of the same opinion.

In order to deal with the grant of loans on this scale the Collector will most likely require a special Loans Tahsildar and such an officer, should, I suggest be sanctioned at once on the Collector's application.

9. Grant of forest produce:- The universal clamour (stongly supported by the President, District Board) is for the grant of bamboos from the reserved forest, free in certain cases and at cost price in other cases. I should be perfectly prepared to recommend a free grant, in so far as this means only the abandonment of Government's claims to signiorage for such produce, but this step by no means satisfies the desire of the President, District Board, nor does it solve the difficulties which are considerable.

In the first place there is a severe shortage of bamboos all down the west coast and I beleive also in Mysore. The bamboos throughout these tracts are seeding and dying, an event which takes place about once in 30 years and from which the bamboo forests take several years to recover. The two district Forest Officers are doubtful whether they can find sufficient bamboos for the purpose of house reconstruction, but they have promised to make enquiries at once on the subject. Certain areas where bamboos exist have already been leased to contractors and are required by them in order to perform their contracts in the matter of timber rafting. With these contracts we cannot interfere

What

What the President, District Board desires is that the bamboos should be cut, carried, and possibly rafted by the Forest Department to convenient centres where they can be bought ~~in~~ at cost price by the house-owners affected or distributed to them gratis. Gratis distribution at such depots would make the very considerable cost of extraction a dead loss to the Government, quoted to me as from 10 to 17 Rupees per hundred bamboos without rafting charges.

After discussion at some length with the Collector, the President, District Boardm and the two Forest Officer, I am inclined to think that there should be no free distribution at depots; but that the house-owners or groups of them should be permitted to go into the selected parts of the forest and should themselves supply the labour and the carts necessary for the cutting and rafting. If it is necessary to supply themwith doles while engaged on this the Committees referred to above should supply the funds.

The possibility of creating temporary depots at centres where bamboos could be sold at cost price requires further consideration. I am told that, after adding together the cost of extraction, carting and rafting referred to above, there will stil be a marked difference between these expenses and the present commercial prices of bamboos, which will doubtless rise further with this additional demand.

It is obvious however that the creation of such depots will be extremely troublesome and involve an organised system of permits to persons allowed to buy at cost price. Otherwise bamboos for commercial purposes will be obtained wholesale at such depots instead of on the ordinary market. I advise that the point may be referred at once to the Chief Conservator of Forests, who I believe has an intimate knowledge of the South Kanara district. I should have advised that the Conservator should immediately come to Mangalore to go into the subject but I believe he is almost at once to go on special Deputy.

I ought to add that according to the examinations made by many inspecting officers a large proportion of the bamboos in the collapsed houses are capable of being used again. In view of the shortage of bamboos I am by no means anxious to encourage the supply of new materials on generous terms where the old ones can be used again. The conditions suggested above as regards the gratis supply will be a useful automatic method of testing the real necessity for these materials. It is not denied that they involve the house-owners travelling a long distance into the forests with bulls and carts. They will not do this unless they really need the bamboos and unless they are without funds to purchase them. I regard the test as valuable.

G e n e r a l.

I think the South Kanara floods have been over-advertised. Their results have been serious and are distressing, but they are not the unparallelled disaster which would imagine from reading certain sections of the Press.

In assessing the News Paper reports at their true value I think Government might bear in mind

(1) That the South Kanara district is quite unused to these seasonal disasters which afflict many other districts.

(2) That the Council Elections are due in about 2 months and that a 'sympathetic' attitude towards the misfortunes of one's electors and those of their dependents is naturally expected of any candidate.

For example no less than six of the members of the Mangalore general committee are members or candidates. The President, District Board, is one of the latter.

This consideration should not in my opinion

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prevent Government giving a small grant as I have advised above, taking the risk, which is inevitable, of a rather liberal interpretation by the Committee of what is a 'deserving case'.

My point is that it would be too much to expect at present of the leaders of public opinion in the district that they should contradict exaggerated versions of the disaster.

Sd. J.M. Turing

21-8-1923.

Copy of telegram from the Second Member, Board of Revenue (on tour) Mangalore dated 25-8-1923.

"Recommendation in para 7 my flood note cancelled. Discussion to day deputation central committee shows this unnecessary. Inform Revenue Secretary, Government should warn Tireman. Principal remaining question organisation supply building indents especially bamboos.

Land Revenue Member".

39 II

Copy of demi official from N. Macmichael Esq., I.C.S., to the Secretary to the Government of Madras dated the 29th August 1923.

You have probably by this time received a copy of [illegible]ing's general covering note on the South Kanara floods. Turing thinks, and I agree with him, that it is very desirable that the Chief Conservator or the Conservator should visit South Kanara at once in order to make arrangements for the supply of bamboos -- Vide para 4 (2) of his note. Will you please get orders on this issued as soon as possible?

South Kanara Floods -- General Covering Note.

I have already sent up to Government the Preliminary note on the above subject which I will now call Note I. I now attach two further notes, II and III. Note II deals particularly with the results of my inspection near Udipi and Note III with the results of a discussion with a deputation of the more important members of the Mangalore Central Relief Committee.

2. The conclusions are in general confirmatory of the opinions expressed in Note I. But my revised recommendations about the action to be taken differ in two important points from those in Note I. I may explain that I would have deferred reporting at all until these inspections and discussions were concluded, but I understood Government were pressing for some information from the Board in view of the exaggerated newspaper reports which had been published on the subject

3. In view of the opinion expressed by the deputation about the small scale of immediate relief necessary--Vide para 1 of Note III--- I have already wired cancelling the recommendation made in para 7 of Note I. No grant need be given by Government for this particular purpose. The view held by the deputation on this subject differs materially from that of the President Dt. Board, given me orally a few days previously and the deputation's view is confirmed by my inspections near Udipi. In fairness to the Collector I should explain that he has consistently held throughout that Government funds were not required for the purpose of feeding the sufferers by the floods. A D.O. letter which he wrote to the settlement Commissioner advising a grant of Rs.5.000 for this purpose was

explained, I have now come round to the Collector's original view upon this point.

4. The remaining question is the share to be taken by the Government in the Reconstruction operations. My final views on this point are contained in paras 4 and 5 of Note III. The action to be taken falls under two heads.

(1) Loans Work.

The only points to be emphasised on this head are (a) that a Special Loans Tahsildar will probably be required, (vide Note I, para 8 (4) concluding sentence)

(b) that the share to be borne in ~~these~~ these operations by the Co-operative Department should be examined at once in that department.

c) that loans are desirable to land Lords who have to assist in the rebuilding of their tenants' houses--(Note III, para 4 (5)

and (d) (a more controversial point) that the period for which such loans should be granted, may deserve special consideration. I believe I am right in thinking, that the Local Government has now absolute powers as regards the terms of such loans. The period for house building advances laid down by the Agriculturists Loans Act is 10 years. This period appears to me rather short, particularly in the case of pucca tiled housesof which the cost is considerable. I should advise giving power if possible to the Collector to extend the period to at least 15 years.

(2) Supply of building materials, particularly bamboos, at accessible centres by the Forest Department, to be sold at cost price to the persons furnished with permits by the Collector or some authority authorised by him (vide paras 4 and 5 of Note III)

exclude seigniorage (remitted by Government) but include extraction and transport.

As an ex-Forest Secretary I am naturally aware of the general objections to any such scheme. It will be enormously troublesome to the Forest Department. It will involve the dislocation of much of their ordinary work in the current year, and interference with their ordinary system of exploitation through Contractors. These objections are serious and may possibly prove insuperable. But I think the scheme should be examined by responsible authorities on the spot before it is pronounced impossible. If sufficient bamboos can be found in the forest in spite of the seeding of the bamboos all down the coast, (vide para. 9, Note I), and if it a fact, as the D.F.Os. think, that bamboos can be landed at different centres at a cost equal to about half the price now charged in the open market, then I think the attempt should be made in spite of the tax it makes upon the time and energy of the Forest Department.

In this connection I would suggest that the principles of "commercial accounting" need not be applied in fixing the price of these bamboos. In other words I think that Government may charge to the purchasers only the actual cost of exploitation and transport and may give gratis the services of the Forest Department Officers. This seems reasonable in a scheme devised for the purpose of remedying a somewhat serious disaster.

I would advise also that either the Chief Conservator or the Conservator should be requested to visit South Kanara without delay in order to concert these measures in discussion with the Collector and the D.F.Os.

5. If assistance in the above form proves feasible

the Government (apart of course from loans) is necessary. If it proves impossible, the alternative suggested by the Committee's deputation, (vide Note III, para 3 (b), should be considered. That deputation suggested that as an alternative to the scheme in para 4 (2) above Government might make a grant of Rs.40,000 or Rs.50,000 to the Central Relief Committee, to be used to help house owners to ~~x~~ buy bamboos or other forest produce in the open market. Such a measure would involve infinitely less trouble, than what I have suggested above, but it would be more expensive to Government, less effective from the point of view of the house owner, and, assuming a large difference really exists between the market price of bamboos — the cost of extracting and transporting them, much of the grant would naturally go into the pockets of the selling Contractors.

6 I would summarise the general effects of the South Kanara floods in the briefest possible terms by saying that no one so far as can be ascertained, has lost his means of livelihood and very few persons their crops or their current year's income. But there has been a very large destruction of capital more particularly in the form of houses and stores of grain. The population of South Kanara, I am told are accustomed to a standard of comfort in house building superior to that of most districts. In other ~~xxxx~~ words an unusually large proportion of their savings goes into their houses and the destruction of the latter is naturally felt ~~xxxx~~ acutely. What the loss of capital in house and grain stores has been it will never be possible to estimate with any accuracy. But it must amount to many lakhs of rupees. Clearly Government cannot accept any obligation to replace

but they may be willing to help in

of a disaster affecting simultaneously so many people. From this point of view even a money grant such as that discussed in the preceding paragraph could - perhaps be justified, though as I have said I do not consider it the best solution.

No doubt the recent Government loans (since proposed for conversion into free grants) for - reconstruction work in the Malabar district have raised hopes in South Kanara of similar Government assistance. But I do not consider the cases parallel. The South Kanara floods are an event over which Government have no control whatever, and which differs only in degree, not in kind, from any ordinary seasonal disaster.

Note II.

This note is in continuation of my note dated 21st August and contains some further information regarding the South Kanara floods. I have -- since inspected the villages of Tonse East and Tonse West in the Udipi Taluk and a representative area in the village of Udiawar, also close to Udipi. The two former villages were selected as those which according to the figures collected has suffered most severely by the earlier (July) floods, and as being fairly typical of the thickest-populated agricultural areas of the South Kanara District. They consist of flat lands, partly island, partly mainland, adjoining the Swarnanadi river close to the sea; the lands are mostly ~~xxxxxx~~ coconut gardens and neither these nor the paddy lands have suffered any damage. The village of Tonse West used to contain 670 houses to a cultivated area of 1040 acres or roughly 1½ acres of cultivated land per house. This implies a population of over 2000 to the square mile, very large for a rural area. The figures collected show between 200 and 250 houses in Tonse East and over 300 houses in Tonse West destroyed or damaged by the -- floods, and in nearly 1/3 of these cases the houses had collapsed. It seems unlikely that any rural area will show damage on a greater scale than this. With the damage to towns I dealt in my previous note.

2. The most noticeable feature of my inspection was the extent to which the flood damage had been repaired. In the case of mud and thatched -- houses the damaged buildings have been rendered temporarily habitable, usually by the substitution of thatti screens for the mud walls; and in a very -- large proportion of the collapsed houses of this clas the roof has been re-erected or the houses replaced

by some smaller structure on the original site. This, of course, proves conclusively, that a considerable portion of the old material is fit for use again, a point touched upon by me in para.10 of my previous note. In fact the whole thatched roof often comes down almost intact.

In the case of pucca-tiled buildings the damage caused had been in many cases repaired with temporary materials, but where such buildings had completely collapsed, (and there were many such cases) nothing except clearing the debris had been, or could have been attempted.

3. There was absolutely no sign of unemployment and none of the ordinary signs of starvation or inadequate food. This may be partly due to rice doles which have been distributed by the Udipi Committee.

These doles have also probably contributed to the very considerable amount of reconstruction effected in the short space of six weeks, by rendering it possible to many house-owners, who would otherwise have had to seek cooly labour, to attend to the repairs of their houses.

In fact practically all the inhabitants of these two villages are now again living (doubtless in considerable discomfort) on or close to their small holdings and have now resumed their ordinary pursuits. It is reassuring to find such considerable powers of recovery in the population of two of the worst affected villages.

4. Better class houses:- I have already observed that a considerable number of these have been destroyed. It is remarkable how many of these houses are owned by persons who possess only a small extent of land. I was assured that several owners of coconut gardens measuring only 1½ acres in extent

2,000 to 2,500 rupees to erect. (House building in these tracts is not cheap, nearly all the materials have to be brought from a distance). The point will be of importance when it comes to the question of loans for the reconstruction of such buildings, the landed security to be offered not exceeding by very much the value of the houses to be re-erected assuming that is that an equally valuable house is to take the place of the one destroyed.

A further point bearing on the same question is the following:-

Nearly all the owners of coconut gardens hold them on mulgeni tenure (i.e. with occupancy right). There has recently arisen, I am told, a custom of inserting in the mulgeni leases a prohibition against mortgage of such land without lessor's consent. The legality of such a proviso is open to doubt; but it may prove a difficulty in granting the loans. I must leave the point to be dealt with by officers who are experts in the land tenures of South Kanara.

5. I wish to correct my previous note on two points. In para.5 of that note I mentioned that the employment of the labouring classes in coir -- making had not been seriously disturbed by the floods I believe this to be accurate except as regards a short period following on the floods. It is however a fact that large stocks of coir in various - - stages of preparation have been lost, and it may be well to mention this in order to avoid a misunderstanding. The loss however would fall on the employ--er or cultivator owning the coir and not on the landless labouring class.

The other point is more important. In paras. 9 and 10 of my previous note I suggested that

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house owners or groups of them desiring to obtain bamboos free should go into selected parts of the forest and should themselves supply the labour and the carts necessary. I added that I thought that this would be a useful automatic method of testing their need for these materials. I do not now think that this will prove a practical suggestion as regards Tonse East and Tonse West or areas similarly situated. Not only is the distance from the forest very considerable, but such villages own hardly any carts and bullocks, their ordinary method of transport being boats. It is not probable that they could take advantage of the concession in the form under discussion and will therefore have to purchase at cost price should it be possible for the Forest Department or any other agency to bring these materials within their reach. I have no reason to suppose that such purchases are beyond their means.

In view of the considerable portion of the old materials which can be used again I do not think that the number of new bamboos required should average more than about 50 per house in the case of houses of the ordinary mud and thatched type.

Note III.

On the 25th I received a deputation of several members of the Managing Committee of the Mangalore Central Relief Committee. The resulting discussion was useful in many respects.

1. The deputation agreed that the immediate crisis was over, that the distribution of doles was daily becoming less necessary and said that they were contracting their operations under this head and expected to conclude them about the 15th of September. They were of opinion that the important question now was reconstruction work and not immediate relief. They also said that they had sufficient funds for the remaining relief work necessary and expected that when this was over they would have several thousands of rupees remaining.

2. In discussing reconstruction work they touched on the following points:—

(a) Remissions:— All lands in the district which grow two wet crops are, it is believed, compounded double crop wet. A suggestion was put forward that these rules might be relaxed so that those able to grow second crop this year only might receive remission. No rational ground was urged for this concession which appears quite unnecessary. These land owners must have gained enormously by holding their lands at compound rates, and there is no reason why they should not be held to their bargain on the rare occasions when loss of crop does occur.

(b) Loans for the restoration of land damages by erosion or silt. These can be granted under the Land Improvements Loans Act. It is simply a matter of applying the ordinary rules.

(c) Seed grain. The same remark applies, the Act in this case being the Agriculturists Loans Act. The general opinion of the deputation was that most of the sufferers would manage without loans on this account.

(d) Loans for house-building. The deputation were unanimous in thinking that reconstruction of houses is the principal problem indeed the only problem of serious importance which awaits solution. The discussion went over much of the ground covered by my first note.

3. The deputation's view of what the Government ought to do was at the beginning of the discussion as follows:—

(a) Bring down to convenient centres a quantity of bamboos and other forest produce sufficient for reconstruction purposes and

(1) Make free grants of it at such centres to the poorest class of sufferers and

(2) sell it at price representing the cost of extraction and transport to the sufferers having the means to pay for it, or

(b) in the alternative make a grant of 40 or 50 thousand rupees to the Central Relief Committee to enable them to help house owners to buy bamboos and other forest produce in the open market.

On further discussion however the general opinion was

(1) that assuming a small house would require about 50 new bamboos and the actual cost to the Forest department of extraction and landing the bamboos at convenient centres would be about 15 rupees per hundred (this last figure is taken from the D.F.O's oral statements) a very great majority of the sufferers could find the necessary sum of Rs.7-8-0 for this purchase.

(2) That such sufferers if they were faced with the necessity of either finding the Rs.7-8-0 or going to the forest to cut and transport bamboos would find the 7/8 somehow.

(3) That the present cost of bamboos per hundred at Mangalore being about Rs.35 and likely to rise materially with the increased demand the sufferers would get more benefit out of an arrangement allowing them to purchase at cost price than out of a system of money grants intended to facilitate purchase at the ordinary market prices.

(4) That a class in real need of help was the class of wargdars or landlords particularly the less well-to-do among them who are faced in many cases with the necessity of reconstructing a number of their tenant's houses and find a difficulty in obtaining materials for the purpose. Assistance to these landlords properly administered would indirectly insure the relief of a numerous class of chalgeni tenants whom it would otherwise be difficult to

were

(1) Drop all idea of a free grant of building materials by Govt.

(2) Drop all idea of sending the sufferers into the forest to get their own bamboos except possibly in the case of villages within a reasonable distance of the forest.

(3) Make every effort to get the necessary materials down to suitable distributing centres and sell them there at cost price.

(4) Persons entitled to purchase at cost price must be furnished with permits by some authority to be hereafter decided. This concession should be extended to the less well-to-do landlords who are by custom compelled to supply the materials for the reconstruction of chalgeni tenants' houses in cases when a number of their tenants have lost their houses.

(5) Loans under the Agriculturists Loans Act should be granted to such landlords for the purpose of reconstructing not only their own but also of their tenants' houses.

(6) In the case of mulgeni (occupancy right) tenants direct loans should be granted for the reconstruction of the houses.

5. I accept the above conclusions as being the most sensible way of dealing with the problem and the Collector agrees. This is assuming, of course, that the Forest Department finds the scheme outlined above a practical possibility. At best it will involve much trouble and organisation and doubtless the postponement for a year of more profitable forest exploitation schemes. But if it is feasible, these objections will, I think have to be overlooked. Th question should be dealt with on the spot as early as possible by some officer of the Forest Department of the rank of Conservator or above.

6. As regards the amount required under the Loans Act the Collector should make an estimate as soon as he can gather the requisite information

7. The deputation alluded to some schemes which they had on hand connected apparently with the Co-operative Credit house-building rules recently issued by the Government, but as these schemes were no

not ready they have not been discussed. The members seemed to think that the question of the reconstruction of the towns destroyed would be better dealt with under such co-operative schemes than by loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. I am inclined to agree, but I am doubtful whether sufficient amount out of the 4 lakhs apparently available to Government this year can be diverted towards South Kanara for this purpose. In any case it will probably be impossible for Government to loan funds for the re-erection of shops, warehouses and the like destroyed by the floods and the owners of these will, I expect, have to depend on their own resources, including their own credit, for the reconstruction of these buildings.

I received on the 24th a small deputation from Buntwal. This deputation wished to talk over the scheme for the reconstruction of that place. Their scheme so far as I could gather was to form the house-owners of that place into a Company under the Companies' Act, the Government should lend to this Company half of the capital required to reconstruct Buntwal at the rate of 4 per cent. It was pointed out to the deputation that the Government themselves will have to borrow money at a far higher rate. The amount required to reconstruct Buntwal may be estimated at 8 lakhs.

I do not think that there is the slightest probability of this scheme taking any practical shape and it is not worth while entering into any discussion with regard to it.

Copy of demi-official from J.M.Turing Esq., I.C.S., to E.W.Legh Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ooty the 31st August 1923.

I have completed and sent in my notes on the South Kanara floods. I am only adding a few remarks on the subject of Wells, who, I gather, has incurred the wrath of 'The Hindu'; that journal presumably voices the opinions of the Udipi non co-operator referred to in my notes. The complaint seems to be that he did not join either of the Relief Committees formed. This is, or was, a fact. Wells was under the impression that recent orders about the share of ~~f~~ officials in collecting subscriptions prohibited, or at least discouraged, them from joining Committees formed for this object. I have not seen, and in camp can't trace, the latest orders, but I do not think the intention can have been to prevent the co-operation of officials and non-officials in dealing with a general disaster

As a matter of fact the Committees were perfectly capable without his joining them of dealing with the very moderate amount of distress, temporary at that, which followed the floods.

You will see from my last notes that a deputation of the Central Committee accepted the view consistently held by Wells upon the degree of distress and the need of more funds for immediate relief.

I think however that Wells had better now join the Central Committee and be on its Executive Committee. He has promised to arrange it.

n case this should produce an impression of indifference to the sufferings of his district, such as they were, I may say at once, that this is the reverse of the truth.

Wells impresses me as far from brilliant, but is conscientious in extremes. For example, he was actually at Bantwal

when that town was destroyed, and continued to camp there, visiting the surrounding places, for ten days in abominable discomfort, the town reeking of rotting rice (it was bad enough when I was there several days later) and in a bungalow containing some scores of refugees. Three or four days would have done as well in my opinion but he certainly showed no disposition to shirk disagreeables. As to the value of newspaper reports I cannot do better than offer you the following anecdote.

After my interview with the Committee's deputation, (very sensible folk I found them) I observed that their present view of the extent of the disaster seemed to be wholly different from the newspaper accounts of the same. "Oh that", observed the President of the District Board, "that was propaganda".

P.S. You might send copy of this to Wadsworth. Macmichael might like to have it.

Copy of demi-official from Mr. S. Wadsworth I.C.S., to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, No.161 dated the 31st August 1923.

Your D.O.No.1630-B/23-1 dated 16-8-1923 - Floods - South Kanara district.

×/B22-23 Supra.

I am asked by Macmichael to inform you that he agrees with Turing × that no gratuitous relief by Government is necessary. Herewith Wells' D.O. on the subject.

Copy of Demi-official from Mr. Wells I.C.S., to Mr. Macmichael, I.C.S., dated the 19th August 1923.

Referring to the enclosed D.O. I write to say that the Mangalore Relief Committee under the Bishop of Mangalore, has collected about Rs.6,000 and may collect up to Rs.10,000. Half of this they are setting aside for feeding the destitute. I think that Government might give them now another Rs.5,000 for this purpose and express a wish that the Collector should be on the managing body. This Committee is quite unable to work with the Udipi Committee in spite of attempts at compromise. The Mangalore Committee will have to assist up country committees such as the Coondapur Puthur(for Uppinangadi) and Kasargod Committees. Any further action on the part of Government by way of relief may be deferred pending recommendation by Mr. Turing who is here.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

As regards the notes of Mr. Turing on South Kanara Floods.

(1) He says finally that no grant for feeding is required.

(2) He has made proposals for supply of bamboos which will be forwarded at once to Development for consideration and compliance as far as may be possible.

(3) He suggests a Loans Officer for preparing the way for loans for reconstruction.

The Board has over a lakh in hand at once. Finance indicated that more money could be obtained if needed.

(a) I suggest that consent of Finance be asked for appointment of one special Tahsildar at once on Rs.300/- for loans work.

(b) That Collector be told he may have a second if necessary.

(c) That these officers be told to collect applications for loans for rebuilding at once and

(d) To deal with all such cases as can be dealt with under the ordinary rules under Collectors orders.

(e) To submit through Collector schemes for dealing with cases which cannot come under ordinary rules.

E.W.L.
5-9-23.

Ask Collector to expedite his application for the necessary temporary staff to deal with the loans proposed to be given under the two Acts.

M.H.
5-9-23.

The following telegram to the Collector is for approval:-

Please expedite proposals (for) temporary establishment to deal (with) loan applications (for) rebuilding houses destroyed by floods.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Extract of the Hon'ble Mr. R. A. Graham's note on the South Kanara Floods.

9. The Forest Officers are arranging for the supply of bamboos. They estimate that it will be possible to get some 2,50,000 and that if this figure is adopted the cost of extraction (including bringing to depots) will average from Rs.25 to 30 a hundred. This excludes seigniorage and the procedure to be adopted will be that suggested in para. 4 (3) and (4) of Mr. Turing's third note. All the proposals in that paragraph in fact may well be adopted. In addition there are in some parts of the district a large number of palmyra standing on what are known as Revenue Kadus. The Rev. authorities say that there is no objection to giving these free to the poor people and on seigniorage to others.

10. The system of permits suggested in paragraph 4 (4) of Mr. Turing's note can be extended also to certain timber which the Forest department have available and which might also be used: and also other timber which, though useful for house building for ~~xxx~~ poor people, would not ordinarily pay the cost of extraction. But the first efforts of the Forest department must be devoted to bringing bamboo and it is only if they can do so without interfering with this that they should attempt to supply timber.

11. It will be seen that the cost of supplying bamboos by the Forest department is considerably higher than the estimate given to Mr. Turing by the Forest officer. In fact it will not be much less than the present market price of bamboos in Mangalore, but the fact that the Forest department is supplying will tend to prevent profiteering by private merchants.

These are apparently already taking steps to stock more. I saw several rafts of bamboos coming down the river and the Forest department had not yet had time to get to work, so they must have been on private account.

12. A request made to me was with regard to the use of timber standing on kumaki lands. I was told th.. the rules do not allow a landholder to use this outside the village in which it stands, or to sell it. But there are bound to be cases in which a landholder who wants building materials will want them in a village in which he has no kumaki rights or in which there is no timber on his kumaki. Also it is desirable not to restrict the sources of supply to people who want to build their houses. I think therefore that this rule might be temporarily relaxed so long as steps can be taken to prevent profiteering.

13. The bamboos will be supplied at cost price by the Forest department but there will be a good many people who cannot produce even that cost price and have no pledgeable interest in land and will therefore not be eligible for loans under the Acts. The Committee proposes to help these people to buy the necessary material but I gather that its total collections amount only to about Rs.25,000 of which it has spent some portion in doles and other forms of relief. The price of bamboos being what it is, the balance of these collections will not by any means cover all necessitous cases. The Committee ought no doubt to have been able to collect more but it now asks for a grant of Rs.50,000 from the Government to help it out. This means practically a gratuitous contribution towards the rebuilding of houses in addition to the supply of bamboos at cost price and I told the Committee that I thought it was a large demand to make. I think

Point (8).

people have sustained a total loss of their property, something in the way of gratuitous relief might be ventured on and I would suggest a grant of Rs.10,000 the Committee being urged at the same time to make more strenuous efforts to collect privately.

Point (8)

14. It has been disappointed by contributions which it expected being given instead to the Udipi Committee, which has on the whole been more active both in begging and in relieving distress. I understand for instance that it, and not the Mangalore Committee, got the support of the Servants of India Society, as well as several recent large subscriptions.

15. The proper course for those who have pledgeable interest in land is to take loans. The people of South Kanara are not accustomed to taking loans under the Acts and I am told that practically nobody is likely to borrow from Government at the present current rate of interest. This I think is 7½ per cent. It is said that money can be got locally on mortgage of landed property at 5 per cent; Borrowing from a local money lender has the advantage (in the eyes of the borrower) that there is less supervision over the manner in which the money is spent but what happens is that the date of payment is more or less indeterminate. No demand is made on the borrower for some years and eventually he finds himself entirely in the hands of the money lender who probably gets considerably more than his 5 per cent in the end. The Committee quote the case of Malabar and ask that loans may be granted at a reduced rate of interest if they cannot be granted free of interest. Though the cause was different the actual destruction can hardly have been greater in Malabar than it was in the places affected by the floods in South Kanara this year. I see no reason however to go so far as to suggest that

the loans should be free of interest. Whether even if they are offered at a reduced rate very great advantage would be taken of the offer, I am not certain: but if Finance will agree, I am inclined to think that it would be a good thing to offer loans at, say, 4 per cent. and as suggested by Mr. Turing to place landholders who have to rebuild the houses of their tenants on the same footing as people who have to rebuild their own houses. It was represented that the first crop on all the low lying lands having been destroyed the landholders will get no rent this year on them. Whether this is universally true I am inclined to doubt, but there are certainly a good many old families who really will not enforce the payment of rent.

16. It is not likely that the more substantial landholders will take loans for the rebuilding of their own houses. They can borrow in the ordinary way if they have a need to and will probably take some years in the rebuilding.

17. It was suggested that perhaps if the Government approached it, the Imperial Bank might be persuaded to lend money on proper security at a rate lower than that now current. The local Agent told me that the current rate was 7 per cent. I do not think however that we can ask the Bank to reduce its rate while our own is 7½.

⊗ see p 45 infra.

Point 9.

18. As regards Mr. Turing's point about Commercial accounting in the Forest department I do not think that there is any necessity to worry. Any loss on the supply of bamboo or other material - would be shown practically as a gift; and allowance would have to be made for this not so much in making up the accounts as in criticising them.

19. The rate of interest also will prevent resort to cooperative societies. These charge Rs.10-15-0 per cent on loans and the Assistant Registrar says that it is impossible to differentiate between new subscribers and old.

R.A.G.
19-9-23.

x x x

Point marked (6) in the margin. Development is arranging the supply of bamboos but apparently some money will be required and part of it as far as I gather, will have to be advanced in order to enable the Forest department to supply the material for sale, part of which is asked in item (8) to be given as a free grant. Finance will be consulted at once about providing such funds necessary for advancing the scheme and sanction will be asked for putting into the Collector's hands a grant of Rs.10,000 to be used in supplementing the claims made by the local Committees, Collector's grants being used to meet the grants to cases which cannot be dealt with by the Committee on proper recommendation and examination as to their need.

Point marked (5) in the margin. Finance will be consulted regarding the rate of loans. Orders of Government will have to be passed formally if the

rate is to be reduced. If the advance is to be met out of the loan money from the Government of India we shall presumably lose a portion of the interest. The point therefore requires careful consideration.

E.W.L.
20-9-23.

I agree.

M.H.
20-9-23.

To (Under Secy)

Point 6 on p 1 supra & Secy's note on p 5 supra.

The Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore requires immediately an advance of Rs 85,000 to meet the cost of felling & transporting bamboos. This question is raised in the Development Dept file and has been submitted separately.

Point 8 on pp 2 & 3 & Secretary's note on p 5 supra.

The amount of Rs 10,000 will apparently be met from the provision in the budget estimate for 1923-24 under 22-F. Miscellaneous - Discretionary Grants by Collectors. Out of the provision of Rs 27,000 in the budget, Finance have recently restored Rs 22,400 - vide fo R 215 Finance dt 14.7.1923. (U)

Point 9 on p 4 & Secy's note on pp 5 & 6 supra

Communication from Finance

on p 56 of the Sakkari Manual, the Govt have the power to grant loans in special cases at special rates of interest or without interest.

During the recent Moplla rebellion in Malabar, the Govt have sanctioned Rs upto a maximum of Rs 200 in each case free of interest for one year & loans exceeding this limit at 6½ per cent per annum.

G.O. 173 Public
23.2.22
(V)

Extract of Para 4 of the B/s Refce just received is put up at (W)
The file may now be sent to Finance.

Ella
1923
Grant
21.9.23.

Will Finance kindly say (1) whether there will be any difficulty about providing Rs 80,000 immediately for financing the supply of Bombay? The B/s is asking for 1,80,000 out of Agri. loans. Attempt will be made to see what money is needed in Srivaikuntam & how it is available & no effort made to secure the amount e.g. by Attorney Refuge of the A.G. is being consulted.

(2) Will Finance agree to allotment of 10,000 to Chittoor for supplying seeds free to Ryots & most distressed cases? This will only be used after all the money raised by the

subscription has been started & has so far received Rs 85,000 from the public persons who have or have promised.

(3) It appears that money is only likely to be taken on loan in Sukkur if it is at low rate of interest - Will Finance agree to advancing the sum for this purpose as was done in the case of Hyderabad? There are two aspects of the question: on general grounds such a reduction is undesirable as it means loss to Govt but even this aspect is in the light of the situation -

Vide Fin. Dept. No. 173 Rev. 23-2-22

Finance.

24/9/23

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVT. 21 SEP 1923 FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Finance Dept

Para: 1 of Rev Secy's note on page 7 ante. It is understood that the Revenue Dept. have asked the A.G. to advise whether the sum of Rs 85,000 required can be treated as 'Advances Recoverable' the Advances being cleared as and when the receipts are realised. Pending receipt of A.G's reply no remarks are now necessary in Finance

Rev. Dept. No. 1770/23-2 21.9.1923

Fin. S 7346/1 21.9.23

I think this may be treated as ordinary Expenditure of the dept. & a Supply: grant to be asked if necessary - But we may await the A.G's reply. 24-9-23

a sum of Rs 22,400 from the provision in the budget for 'Discretionary grants by Collectors' has already been resumed. It is for orders whether the proposal to reallot Rs 10,000 to the Collector of South Kanara (as discretionary grant) should be accepted.

3. Para 3(3) of the Revy. Secy's note on page 8 ante. It is submitted that there does not seem to be sufficient reason to reduce the rate of interest (7½%) in class I loans in all cases in the S. Kanara Dt. The Collector may perhaps be authorised to reduce the rate of interest in really necessitous cases to 4 per cent.

C.A. Code Vol: I. p. 86 Art: 134.

22-9-23

I do not see why the Rs. 10,000 cannot be secured by subscriptions e.g. launching a newspaper campaign. If Government decide to make a grant, the money can be found from the source indicated.

2. I would claim the normal interest.

3. The Rs. 85,000 is being advised only by the A. G. The expend: here is to be recovered, I take it, in the current year

AWD
23:9:23

W
Rev.

Accts: 57343/1
26.9.23

Rev C 1860 B
24.9.923

Revenue Dept.

To Under Secy

Submitted for orders

2/. The Accts Generals reply, as regards the advance of Rs 85,000 is awaited.

Rs
26.9.23

Work
25.9.23

It would be good if another 10,000 can be raised by subscriptions here. There seems to be little chance of this being done

Ke
26923

The Hon'ble Mr Graham's note on

following proposal

(1) To sanction Rs 85,000 the Forest Dept to be covered by sale of bonds. The Bank will undertake the floating of this loan & money advanced to Govt will be repaid.

(2) To give Govt power to use for repayment of bonds to the debentures the public subscription received. I think this power should be made available for the purpose of bonds.

(3) To reduce the rate of interest on loans. Issue of bonds is not easy & it is not easy to justify it if money is available locally at rate below the Govt rate. If the rate is low interest it constitutes a fine gain of a portion of the interest to the borrower.

Orders are requested on these points.

C 27-9-23.

RLB 28-9-23.

C2
C1

26/9/23

As regards (1) there is not apparently much difficulty. It is merely an advance & money is also available. A.G. will doubtless agree to details. This may be accepted at once & Forest Dept must proceed with the work

without further delay

Referring to item (2) letter realize that as Govt. we do have certain responsibilities to help the really destitute on an occasion like this which has brought untold misery & ruin to a vast area in the Dt. Umgeni Durban & other Provincial Govts (Boks & Orpen for instance) have shown a larger heart under similar conditions & letters will be void of such virtues in the administration.

It is easy to support "Newspaper propaganda" while we refuse to contribute any portion of the money required to help the really needy! I fully support the modest proposal of my Humble Colleague C4.

Lastly in regard to loans: I can hardly see any difference between the destruction wrought by human rebellion & natures rebellion. In fact the latter is more prompt & more destructive in its operation. If the people of Natal were entitled to Concessions on that occasion with, of course, Concurrence of Finance, I can hardly see the justification for regarding the more unfortunate people of S. Canara disentitled to same Concessions. Of course I do not press that these Concessions should be extended even to those who are able to shift for themselves

case of the poor sufferers Board's has not been equally kind. We may lay down a certain maximum up to which loans will be given at the reduced rate of 4% as suggested by the Hon'ble Mr. Graham & leave it to the Collr. to select the most deserving cases to enjoy the benefit of this concessional rate. The Exhibition of some tangible sympathy with those who have been so hard hit by nature is essential in a case of this unprecedented universal calamity.

27.9.23

I agree. We may fix the maximum for loans at 1 lakh in the first instance. If more is found to be wanted, the Collector can apply

27.9.23

Draft order please submit.

28/9/23

To Under Secy

A draft order is submitted, as may be sent to Development & Finance for perusal

Rev No. 1860 B/23-1
28.9.23
Sd/-

28/9/23 Draft

28/9/23

14/8/23

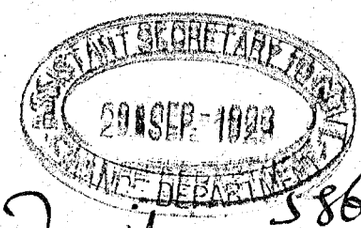
65

1. Secd returned with thanks. Orn under H/C Letter No 2599 Finance

D. 2279 I
29.9.23

Secd d.o. 2279 I/23-1
29.9.23

Finance Dept



Please see the Finance Dept notes on Fls 8-10 ante et seq. Quote 5861/B 29.9.23

2. The following remarks are called for on the draft order:-

(a) Para: 1 of the draft. The question of treating the Amn of Rs 85,000 as 'Advances Recoverable' is under separate reference to the Ag. (x from the Secl Dept) If the Ag. does not agree to this, the necessary supplementary grant will have to be obtained from the Legislative Council under Forests.

Cf Hosk. secy's note in the margin p. 6 ante
It would be well to wait for this Ag's reply & think in the Head. He may be reminded.
29/9/23

(b) Para: 3 of draft order. It may be specified that the Amn of Rs 10,000 is sanctioned as a discretionary grant.

(c) Para: 4 of draft order: This may be omitted, and ~~covered~~ the following substituted.-

The grant of Rs 10,000 sanctioned in para: 3 above will be met

66

~~Reptd. Receipts~~ returned in

(E) G.O.R. 215 Finance dt 14-7-23

(The G.O. in the present case will be communicated to A.G. Mys' Thiru Deptt)

3. The draft order may be otherwise accepted.

29-9-23

29/9/23

Yes - subject to the usual reply as to the Rs 85,000.

1/10/23

1 OCT. 1923
REVENUE DEPT.

Revised

Telem: 5861 Pgl 1
1-X-23

U.O.447

Office of the Accountant-General, Madras,
Fort St. George, dated the 28th Septr. 23

There is no objection to the proposed expenditure for felling of bamboos being charged to "Advances repayable--Special advances--Advances for the felling of bamboos in South Kanara District". The District Forest Officers of North Mangalore ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ and South Mangalore may be made responsible for the recovery of the advance.

2. Necessary action is being taken by this office for the re-appropriation of funds from forest advances to special advances.

C Subrahmanyam
D.A.G.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.U.O.

Rev 1691 B
1-10-23

Revenue Department

To Under Secy

⊗ vide extract at (T).

The draft order sanctioning the advance ⊗ which was sent to Development & Finance for acceptance has not yet been received. It is understood that the file has been submitted to Finance Secretary. On receipt of the file in this department, the following may be added as ~~a separate order~~ para 2, the existing paras 2 & 3 being altered into 3 & 4

(? Issue ... to Rev)

"The expenditure will be charged to 'Advances repayable - Special Advances - Advances for the felling & transport of bamboos in the S. Kanara district' a District Forest Officers North Mangalore & South

recovery of the advance"

Hon
1.10.23

Dev & Jui may see

Ke
1.10.23

Dev
Jui

1/10/23

Rev no 1891 B/23-1
1.10.23

Sec.

Dev
1.10.23

D 2300-I
1-10-23

Dev. No. 2300 I/23-1
1-10-23

Finance Dept

May be perused & returned to Revenue.

Jui 588 BL
2.X.23

Hon
2.10.23

2/10/23

2/10/23

Rev. 588 BL 1
2.X.23

Revenue Department

To Under Secy

The draft order has been amended with refee to the remarks of Finance on ff 14 & 15 supra & a paragraph has been added

Special — 3

DG.

18.

with refee to the offic 2e on Nos 16+17 supra.

The draft order may now issue -

2/ It is proposed to place the order only on E.T. The Development Depts are placing their f.o. also on E.T.

After the order is despatched in manuscript, the f.o. will be sent to the Press with instructions to place the f.o. on E.T. simultaneously with the Development f.o.

DG
3.10.23

Walk
3.10.23

JG
3 10 23

3/10/23

Sectt. II-1o (a)—48,962—2-2-22. (6)

	Date.	Initials.
When received for Fair-copying.	4/X	W.
When copied ..	4/X	W.
When examined ..	4/X	W.
When signed ..		
When despatched ..		

Res— DEPARTMENT.

Floods (S. Kanara) — Relief of distress — Supply of bamboos etc + other measures of relief.

READ AGAIN G.O. No. ....., dated 192

" " " " ....., " 192

READ ALSO;—

C. No. ....., From the ....., No. ....., dated ..... 192 .

" " ..... " " ..... " ....., " ..... 192 .

" " ..... " " ..... " ....., " ..... 192 .

C 1891 B/23

ORDER.

No. 1495, dated 3 - 10 - 1923.

Press.

Please issue in M&S. first today to all & return file

W 3/10/23

The Govt. sanction an advance of Rs. 85,000 to enable the Conservator of Forests, VI Circle to meet the initial cost of felling ~~& transport~~ bamboos, etc, from forests & transporting them to convenient centres for sale at cost price to the people whose houses have been destroyed by the recent floods in the S. Kanara district. This advance should be recouped as the bamboos, etc are sold.

2. The expenditure will be charged to "Advances repayable — Special Advances — Advances for the felling & transport of bamboos, etc, in the S. Kanara Dt." The Dy. Conservator of Forests, N. Mangalore & South Mangalore will be held responsible for the recovery of the advance.

3/X The Accts. Genl is requested to place the amount immediately

at the disposal of the Conservator.

4/5/. The GoI also sanction a discretionary grant (to the Collr of South Kanara) of Rs 10,000 for the relief of distress caused by the floods. The Collr. of S. Kanara should be instructed to utilize this amount in supplying bamboos etc. free to ~~the~~ ~~destitute~~ persons who ~~to need~~ destitute persons who cannot afford to buy them even at cost price, and ~~have~~ to obtain relief from the money raised by public subscription ~~is exhausted and needy persons~~ and in such other cases of urgent need as the funds may be necessary. ~~remain to be provided for.~~

5/4/. ~~Orders regarding provision of~~ The grant of Rs 10,000 sanctioned in para 4 above will be met from the sum of Rs 22,400 assumed ~~and duly advised~~ in G.O. R 215 Finance dt 14.7.1923. ~~Deptt.~~

(E) Issued the corresponding Cr on 3/10/23.

6/5/. "- GoI are pleased to direct as a special case, that the loans to be advanced in the district under the Loans Acts for rebuilding the houses destroyed by floods shall bear interest at 4 per cent - The maximum amount upto which loans will be granted at this favourable

Cr. with ref. to Govt.

	Initials.	Date.
Received in Fair-copying Section.		
Copied ..		
Examined .		
Signed ..		
Despatched ..		

large amount is found necessary, the Coll. should address for it later on. The Coll. should select the cases most deserving of the benefit of this concession.

The Board of Rev. is requested to place the amount immediately at the disposal of the Coll.

from the all Mysore Agr. Com.

No. 28923

28923

No. 28923 Walk 28.9.23.

28/9/23

DESPATCHED 4 OCT 1923

The Board of Rev. (L.R. Hall)
" Chief Conservator of Forests
" Conservator of Forests, Dist
" Coll. of S. Kanara
" Development Dept.
" A.S. thro' Finance
" Finance
" E.T.

Secrt. II-38—1,703—17-1-18.

PRESS SLIP.

~~ORDINARY.~~ ~~PREFERENCE.~~ URGENT (a).

.....Revenue..DEPARTMENT.

Current No. 189/B/23 dated.....1-10-23.....191 .

G.O. No. 1495-Rs dated.....3-10-23.....191 .

Number of MS. pages sent { (b) Correspondence.....Three pages. (b1) Notes.....Nil.....

Brief subject.....Road (S. Kanara) — Relief measures.....

(c) Number of copies required when struck off (*not including copies for volumes and editors' table which are retained in the Press*).	E. T. copies to supply requisitions for purchase by the public.	Complete correspondence and orders.	Notes.
FOR RECORD.*			
Madras Records	10 =	10	
Ooty Records	2	2	
For filing with original ...	1	1	
Total ..	12	13.	

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Govt. of India.....Dept.					
Revenue Department					
Public Works Department					
Local and Municipal Department					
Educational Department					
~~Development~~.....Dept.		3			
Public Dept.					
Judicial Dept					
Political	Total				
Financial Dept.					
Marine Dept.					
Ecclesiastical Dept.					
				Total ...	
Spare copies.					
The Conservator of Forests		1			
The Chief Conservator		3			
The Coll. of S. Kanara		2			
The Ag.		2			
The Finance		3			
The Boarding Rec. (Extra)		15			
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Total ...		7			

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SECRETARIAT.

(a) If a paper is marked to be printed urgently, the Superintendent of the section concerned should sign the Press slip. The Superintendent should exercise a careful discretion in the matter.

(b) Each letter, memorandum, or order or set of orders, in the file of correspondence should be headed in succession with the Roman numeral I, II, III, etc., the number being written in red ink or blue chalk above the item. The particular papers to be printed in the special issue-copies should be indicated by the Roman numeral (I, II, etc.) by which that item has been headed in the correspondence file. All matter, including marginal remarks or references, to be printed should be written in ink and matter which should not be printed should be encircled. Initials and signatures that are not quite legible should be re-written distinctly.

(b1) For rules regarding printing of notes, see rule 315 of the office Manual.

(c) The number of copies and the details of distribution should be filled in by the Superintendent or Referencer concerned.

(d) In the absence of special instructions to the Press to keep matter standing for a specified period, ordinary papers of 8 pages and under will be kept standing for *one* week, and larger papers for *two* weeks only. *The type of notes and of all confidential papers is distributed immediately after striking.*

(e) This slip, properly and completely filled in, should accompany every paper sent to Press; it will be returned by the Press when proofs are furnished; it should be sent to the Press when a call is made for revised proofs or when a corrected proof is sent for striking. When finally returned by Press it should be filed with the original order or letter.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PRESS.

(a) If, in the opinion of the Superintendent of the Press, a paper has been marked urgent unnecessarily, he should send the Press slip to the Registrar with a remark to that effect.

(b) Unless a note to the contrary is made against the matter, pencil entries should not be printed. The Superintendent of the Press may bring to the notice of the Registrar any instance of incomplete or careless editing.

(c) Signature copies of letters to the Secretary of State or to the Government of India should be printed on hand-made paper.

(d) This slip should be returned by the Press to the Secretariat when proofs are furnished; it will be sent back to the Press when proofs are returned corrected and should be finally returned to the Secretariat when struck-off copies are supplied.

(e) The names of the Secretary and Members should be printed in full when they occur on the right hand side, only the first time when they appear on the left side, the initials alone being printed later.

TO PRESS, MADRAS OOTY.

A	B	C
Pleasee send proof in duplicate. The papers have been carefully edited.	Proof returned corrected. Please strike off and send number of copies as indicated. Type may be released after usual interval / at once.	As the matter is clear manuscript and has been carefully edited, (*b*) proof need not be sent. Please print and supply number of copies as indicated. Type may be released after usual interval.
Referencer. Clerk. 5023	Referencer. Clerk.	Referencer. Clerk
5.10.23 Supt.	Supt.	Supt.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

TO BE FILLED IN BY THE PRESS.

Diary.	Initials of Press official.
Received in Press on	
First proof furnished on	
Call for revised proof received on	
Revised proof furnished on	
Corrected proof received for striking on	
Final copies supplied on	

Account of copies.	Complete copies.	Notes.	Issue copies.	Special E.T. edition.
Supplied to Secretariat for Record				
" " " sue				
" " " for Extra E.T. copies to supply requisitions for sale to the public.				4
For Volumes				
For supply to newspapers and institutions admitted to the privileges of the E. P.				